

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
NEW JERSEY STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

CRYSTAL L. LACOVARA, R.N.  
License # NR 13141800

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a registered professional nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On or about November 14, 2013, a letter of inquiry was sent to respondent at her address of record by certified and regular mail on behalf of the Board of Nursing, asking respondent for information regarding her nursing practice, and questions relevant to respondent's use of prescription medication. Respondent was also asked to forward documentation of nursing continuing education completed since June 1, 2011. (Exhibit A) Respondent was asked to reply within ten days.

3. The certified mailing of the letter of inquiry was signed for. The regular mailing was not returned. No response has been received to date.

4. On her 2013 renewal application, respondent indicated that she would have completed her 2011-2013 continuing obligation by May 31, 2013.

5 In a signed, notarized statement given to Division of Consumer Affairs investigators dated January 31, 2013, given to respondent indicated that she had been a patient of Dr. H. Vidal in Cinnaminson, New Jersey from October of 2010 until approximately September of 2011. During the period that she was Dr. Vidal's patient, respondent established a friendship with Dr. Vidal's receptionist. The receptionist resigned her employment after respondent ceased being Dr. Vidal's patient, and in late October of 2011, asked respondent to assist her in removing her personal effects from Dr. Vidal's office. Respondent drove her friend to Dr. Vidal's office, and assisted in transferring a number of boxes from the office to respondent's own vehicle. Respondent then agreed to store two of the boxes in her own residence.

According to respondent, approximately one week later, detectives came to her home and asked her about the two boxes, informing her that her friend had been arrested and that stolen prescription pads had been recovered. Respondent then claimed that she went through the boxes and found three prescription pads that she "assumed[d]" belonged to Dr. Vidal.

6. A Division of Consumer Affairs investigator ascertained that two of the prescription pads found in respondent's residence were in the name of Stanford Bazilian, M.D., and one was in the name of Heidi Vidal, M.D.

7. The investigator reviewed patient profile records for Ms. Lacovara and ascertained that two prescriptions allegedly prescribed to Ms. Lacovara by Dr. Heidi Vidal displayed serial numbers from a prescription pad that had been reported missing by Dr. Vidal, although it had not been located in the course of the police investigation.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent's failure to respond to an inquiry on behalf of the Board, or failure to provide the Board with a valid mailing address, constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2, 1.3,

2. Respondent's failure to demonstrate completion of her 2011-2013 continuing education obligation is deemed to constitute an indication that she failed to comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3.

3. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22(e ) and (f), the facts cited above are a sufficient basis for the Board to order respondent to enroll in the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP) and undergo evaluation and monitoring to ensure that respondent is able to properly discharge the functions of a licensee, and ensure that respondent's continued practice does not jeopardize the safety and welfare of the public.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on February 28, 2014, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license, and imposing a reprimand and a total of \$750.00 in civil penalties.. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> business day following entry unless respondent requested a

modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

The record reflects that the certified mailing of the Provisional Order was returned, unclaimed. The regular mailing was not returned. No response has been received to date. The Board considered this matter, and determined that service had been effected, as the mailings had been sent to respondent's address of record. The Board further determined that as no discrepancies had been raised with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Provisional Order, additional proceedings were not necessary, and the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2014,

ORDERED that:

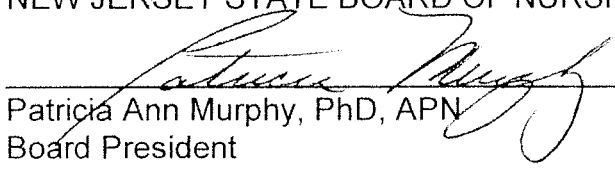
1. Respondent's New Jersey nursing license is hereby suspended until she has fully responded to the inquiry of November 14, 2013; until she has demonstrated completion of thirty contact hours of nursing continuing education to be applied to the 2011-2013 renewal period; and until she has demonstrated that she is fit and competent to practice nursing by undergoing evaluation and monitoring under the auspices of the Recovery and Monitoring Program of New Jersey (RAMP).

2. A public reprimand is hereby imposed for respondent's having engaged in misrepresentation on her 2013 renewal application.

3. A \$500.00 civil penalty is hereby imposed for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2, 1-3, as well as a \$250.00 civil penalty for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, failure to timely complete continuing education, for a total penalty amount of \$750.00. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check or money order, made payable to the State of New Jersey, and shall be sent to the attention of George Hebert, Executive Director, Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, 124 Halsey Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07101 within 21 days of the filing of this order.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President